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SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I ask the Government, Sir, if they will consider whether this is a fit case for appeal and whether the judgment is fair? Before taking the matter on appeal, will the Government consider awarding suitable punishment to the officers?"

*Short supply of water through the Kommanur Canal.*

* 94 *Q.*—SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that adequate supply of water is not being made available through the Kommanur canal in Guntur district to the lands in Santaravur section;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that thousands of acres of wet land in Narsayapalem, Kankatapalem, Kunkalamurru, Karemchedu, Swarna, Santaravur, Timmachinnaganjam are dried up due to the said short supply of water; and

(*c*) whether the Government have received representations that the original flow of water should be maintained in the Kommanur canal to facilitate irrigation of the said area and if so, the action taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The Government have no information but have called for a report."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are prepared to consider the question of increasing the water-supply in view of the fact that there are many complaints from both sides of the Krishna delta area that the water supplied is not adequate?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" A separate question may be put."

*Sale of salt by weight.*

* 95 *Q.*—SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the consumers are allowed to purchase salt by measure and not by weight when the Government are collecting duty by weight; and

(*b*) whether orders have been issued to sell salt by weight and if so, why they are not enforced?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The question of introducing the system of retail sale of salt by weight gradually in this State is under consideration. No orders have yet issued direct ing the sale of salt by weight to consumers. In the absence of such orders, the practice of selling salt by measure in retail is still in vogue."

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Have not the Government of India issued instructions to the local Government to permit the sale of salt by weight?"

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir. They have given discretion to the State Government to fix the date from which that order should take effect. We have not yet fixed any date."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister please tell us whether it is not a fact that in Madras rice was sold by weight instead of by measure, as an experimental measure some two or three months back? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question has nothing to do with the main question. I have, however, no objection to the Hon. Minister answering it."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM :—" Sir, if the Government allow the sale of salt by weight, who will fix the price, is it the Government or the merchant? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know whether there is control over the price of salt. If there is no control, then the Government will not have any hand in it."

SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU :—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that a few years back, the Government wanted to standardize weights and measures in the Presidency? I would like to know what steps the Government have taken in the matter."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question."

### *The Malampuzha Project.*

* 96 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHI RAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the construction of the Malampuzha Project is slackened; and

(*b*) when will its construction be completed according to the present plan?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) On account of the uncertainty regarding availability of funds, work had to be slowed down in March and again early in June; but now that the Government of India have agreed to give a loan to meet expenditure on the scheme in the current year, work is now in full swing.

" (*b*) In 1954."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, whether the function of this Government in relation to this Malampuzha Scheme is only that of an agent, and they are to speed up construction when funds are allotted and to slow down the work when funds run out? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" No, Sir."